



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**Committee Bill No. 239**

LCO No. 3429

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:  
(PD )

**AN ACT CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF TOWN BUDGETS TO THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) Not less than two weeks before the annual town meeting, the  
4 board shall hold a public hearing, at which itemized estimates of the  
5 expenditures of the town for the ensuing fiscal year shall be presented  
6 and at which all persons shall be heard in regard to any appropriation  
7 which they are desirous that the board should recommend or reject.  
8 The board shall, after such public hearing, hold a public meeting at  
9 which it shall consider the estimates so presented and any other  
10 matters brought to its attention and shall thereupon prepare and cause  
11 to be published in a newspaper in such town, if any, otherwise in a  
12 newspaper having a substantial circulation in such town, a report in a  
13 form prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
14 Management containing: (1) An itemized statement of all actual  
15 receipts from all sources of such town during its last fiscal year; (2) an  
16 itemized statement by classification of all actual expenditures during

17 the same year; (3) an itemized estimate of anticipated revenues during  
18 the ensuing fiscal year from each source other than from local property  
19 taxes and an estimate of the amount which should be raised by local  
20 property taxation for such ensuing fiscal year; (4) an itemized estimate  
21 of expenditures of such town for such ensuing fiscal year; and (5) the  
22 amount of revenue surplus or deficit of the town at the beginning of  
23 the fiscal year for which estimates are being prepared; provided any  
24 town which, according to the most recent federal census, has a  
25 population of less than five thousand may, by ordinance, waive such  
26 publication requirement, in which case the board shall provide for the  
27 printing or mimeographing of copies of such report in a number equal  
28 to ten per cent of the population of such town according to such  
29 federal census, which copies shall be available for distribution five  
30 days before the annual budget meeting of such town. The board shall  
31 submit such estimate with its recommendations to the annual town  
32 meeting next ensuing, and such meeting shall take action upon such  
33 estimate and recommendations, and make such specific appropriations  
34 as appear advisable, but no appropriation shall be made exceeding in  
35 amount that for the same purpose recommended by the board and no  
36 appropriation shall be made for any purpose not recommended by the  
37 board. Such estimate and recommendations may include, if submitted  
38 to a vote by voting machine, questions to indicate whether the budget  
39 is too high or too low. The vote on such questions shall be for advisory  
40 purposes only, and not binding upon the board. Immediately after the  
41 board of assessment appeals has finished its duties and the grand list  
42 has been completed, the board of finance shall meet and, with due  
43 provision for estimated uncollectible taxes, abatements and  
44 corrections, shall lay such tax on such list as shall be sufficient, in  
45 addition to the other estimated yearly income of such town and in  
46 addition to such revenue surplus, if any, as may be appropriated, not  
47 only to pay the expenses of the town for such current year, but also to  
48 absorb the revenue deficit of such town, if any, at the beginning of  
49 such current year. The board shall prescribe the method by which and  
50 the place where all records and books of accounts of the town, or of

51 any department or subdivision thereof, shall be kept. The provisions of  
 52 this [section] subsection shall not be construed as preventing a town  
 53 from making further appropriations upon the recommendation of its  
 54 board of finance at a special town meeting held after the annual town  
 55 meeting and prior to the laying of the tax for the current year, and any  
 56 appropriations made at such special town meeting shall be included in  
 57 the amount to be raised by the tax laid by the board of finance under  
 58 the provisions of this [section] subsection.

59 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
 60 any town (1) which does not administer its affairs under a charter, and  
 61 (2) for which the legislative body, as defined in section 1-1, is a town  
 62 meeting may adopt an ordinance (A) requiring the board of finance to  
 63 submit the report prepared pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to  
 64 the board of selectmen for review and revision, and (B) authorizing the  
 65 board of selectmen to submit the proposed report or a revised report to  
 66 the annual town meeting for approval.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

***Statement of Purpose:***

To authorize boards of selectmen in towns without a charter to revise proposed budgets before submission to the annual town meeting.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

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